OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting on the 5th instant, it was stated that the committee have it in contemplation to establish a special fund, to be called the Church Building and Restoration Fund, the object of which will be to make small donations to such churches as submit their plans to the society for its approval, by which means it is hoped that much practical good may be done throughout the country. Mr. Freeman delivered a lecture on the "Constructive Systems of the Entablature and of the Arch." Some remarks were then read by Mr. O. Jewitt on the proposed restorations of the pinnacle of St. Mary's Church. In the alterations of the seventeenth century, the pinnacles of the small spires which terminate each buttress seem to have been taken away, being probably much decayed, and in order to obviate the nakedness which their removal would occasion, the small pinnacles at the angles were added, having evidently nothing to do with the original design. The large pinnacles, too, were most probably much decayed, and at the same period either rebuilt or cased as nearly in imitation of the originals as the ideas of beauty of the times would allow. The general form of the mass was originally much the same as at present, and the eye was raised up without interruption, from the parapet to the pinnacle, first by the canopies, then the spires, then the set off, and lastly by the crowning pinnacle. The only alterations necessary in the present pinnacles, according to Mr. Jewitt, are the restoration of the pinnacles to the spires of the canopies, the removal of the small pinnacles at the angles, and the restoration to the large pinnacles of their proper decorative character: little more would be required than a new facing to the pinnacles; and the whole, while it would retain to the spire that beauty of form and composition which is so admirable, would be executed at a comparatively trifling expense.

SUPPLY OF PURE WATER.—A correspondent states, that a patent right for bringing water on the respective lines of railway into London and other cities, from high elevations and pure sources, in metallic and porcelain tubes, to supply the wants of the public at one-half the present price, and in a much purer state than hitherto obtained, has been granted to Mr. Lamplough, and that arrangements are now being made for the laying down of pipes on the respective lines of railway into London, on a fixed rental on the income derived, thus adding permanently to the railway return, and preventing a needless outlay of capital in the purchase of property for a canal or aqueduct, or both conjoined, securing also the water from injurious impregnations and the absorption of gases. The principle of syphonic action is put into requisition, and by means of a hydraulic pump, a vacuum is caused and a continuous and uninterrupted flow of this necessary of life is obtained so long as the fountain maintains its supply.—What we want is pure water,—how, we care not. It is a fact undeniable, that the inhabitants of Lambeth and Southwark have little better than sewage water to drink, and that in proportion to the impurity and scanty supply, *ceteris paribus*, so they suffered in the late epidemic.

PICTORIAL MAPS.—On reading an article in a late number of THE BUILDER, on pictorial maps, it occurs to me that, in the fine *café Pedrocchi*, at Padua, there are maps of the world painted on the walls, so that you may sip your coffee and study geography at the same time. I should mention also, that contrary to the usual practice, north is placed at the bottom. I do not know of any similar instance, and therefore imagined that this note might interest some of your readers.—C. F., jun.

BLIND BUILDERS.—The following tenders were delivered for the Witham Savings Bank, advertised in THE BUILDER:—

Moss, Chelmsford	£1,215
Turner, Marks Tey	948
Trego, London	894
Gamsom, ditto	873
Willson, ditto	851
Smith, Soole	827
Alison, London	792
Shepherd, Colchester	789
Taylor, London	786
Clusbe, London	764
Mortimer, Hayland	769
Myers, London	705

THE FACILITIES GIVEN FOR FORMING BATHS AND WASHHOUSES, under the Act 9 & 10 Vic., cap. 74, are not so generally known as they ought to be, and at the request of Mr. Woolcott, acting secretary to the committee for promoting the establishment of these most useful, and, indeed, most urgently called-for conveniences to the working-classes, we are happy to reiterate what we have long and often pointed out, that this Act provides, that in the event of a request from ten rate-payers, the churchwardens of the parish shall convene a vestry for the special purpose of determining whether baths and washhouses shall be erected, and if a resolution affirming the proposition be agreed to by two-thirds of the vestry, an election by the parishioners of commissioners shall take place, who will be empowered to carry out the works. The council of any borough may, without any requisition, determine that this Act shall be adopted. The necessary funds for carrying the Act into execution may, from time to time, be borrowed at interest, on the security of a mortgage of the rates for the relief of the poor of such parish, or of the borough fund, as the case may be. In conclusion, we may add that the central committee at Exeter-hall will readily afford every information in their power to aid in promoting an object so highly important and beneficial to the community generally.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—Mr. P. W. Barlow, C.E., of Blackheath, has registered a patent for improved permanent way, by which he proposes to dispense with the ordinary longitudinal sleepers, whilst the rails will be more efficiently secured than heretofore. The invention consists of two or more chairs in one piece, with a metal plate or bearer instead of the usual sleeper. The apparatus may, however, be cast in longitudinal halves, and secured by bolts and nuts, with bars crossing the way. The casting of chairs in two longitudinal halves for ordinary sleepers is also included in the specification. He claims the use of two or more chairs, or parts of chairs, combined with one plate or bearer, and the making of chairs in two parts for ordinary sleepers.——Mr. P. Macpherson, in a pamphlet just published, states that the return to the House of Lords of law and Parliamentary expenses of 127 railway companies gives for law charges, 1,234,948*l.*; Parliamentary expenses, 3,303,461*l.* total, 4,538,409*l.* But this sum of upwards of 4½ millions does not include the law of some of the principal companies. The Great Western, the South-Western, the Eastern Counties, South-Eastern, Great Northern, Midland, York and North Midland, Berwick, Brighton, and others have not yet made a return.

OUR STATUES.—There are two very prominent objects in the centre of our renowned city (London) which seem to be little cared for. I mean the statues of our beloved Queen and the Duke of Wellington. I have been taught that statuary marble is a suitable emblem of purity; but the marble statue of the Queen in the Royal Exchange denotes any thing but that; the dingy, grimy appearance of the features, drapery, &c., almost forbids persons of correct taste from taking a lingering look behind. Oh, Sir, what sort of opinion will our country cousins and foreigners form, who may visit our metropolis during the Christmas holidays, when they see Majesty in a condition so pitiable, and the noble Duke close by, the greatest general of the age, and a man of metal, exhibiting almost the appearance of a sweep with a soot bag wrapped around him? Really, Sir, I think soap, soda-water, and other requisites may be obtained at something less than war prices. I do, therefore, most sincerely hope that these few hints will be sufficient to stimulate our worthy city authorities, without any delay, to pay those necessary little attentions to royalty and merit, and prevent any further reference to the subject.—ONE OF THE LIVERY.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—I was at Greenwich a few days since, where I saw great preparations for building, and I was informed that considerable additions were in contemplation at the hospital to accommodate 1,000 additional pensioners, &c. Let us hope that the new building will be a prototype of the great master who has formed so magnificent a pile, and that it will be equally creditable to the present architect and so good a cause.—A. S.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—Some experiments have been made at Norwich, with a new apparatus, which seems by the description to be either that of Mr. Baker's ingenious autographic telegraph, or some modification of the same principle. Sixty letters were by this means legibly written in what we may fairly call long hand, stretching from London to Norwich, and it is expected that when the invention is fixed and ready to work without interruption, at least 200 letters a-minute will be worked off at once, thus doing away with all transcription, and insuring secrecy of correspondence.——The Americans are still going ahead with their lightning news-conductors. Between New York, Washington, and Baltimore, the charges are to be reduced for long messages; between 500 words and 1,000 to half rates, (4s., being the charge for the first 500), above 1,000 words to one-third only. Mr. Bain is said to have much improved his printing telegraph, and can not only transmit 1,000 letters a-minute, dispensing altogether with the perforated paper, but can give to any number of the 500 machines scattered over the union a simultaneous movement, which enables him to multiply intelligence at one and the same moment throughout the whole circuit of termini. Mr. Green, of New Jersey, also, as the *Mining Journal* notices, has invented a mode of coating the wires by rotating and stationary brushes, with portable paint, or other coating receptacle. A Mr. Pratt, of New York, has patented a plan for stretching wires over great distances, such as rivers, &c., by suspending strong gum elastic band, cord, or tube, to the posts, which, drawn out in the first instance, always, by their elasticity, keep the copper wire stretched. Mr. Curtis, of Ohio, has patented an improved mode of constructing indicating telegraphs.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PATENTEES.—In the Common Plea case, Dakin, administratrix, *v.* Brown and another, the parties have agreed to a verdict of 800*l.* for the plaintiff, as damages or compensation for the death of Mr. Dakin, coffee merchant, by an explosion, in consequence of an alleged defect in the casting of a cylinder connected with an oven constructed by the defendants, who are straw bonnet makers in Cheapside, but also patentees of "Brown's Cellular Steam Plate,"—an oven said to be capable of generating a heat of 500 degrees, and which Mr. Dakin had ordered for heating a silver cylinder for roasting coffee. The only witness examined was Mr. Nasmyth, of Manchester, who declared the casting defective.

COVENT GARDEN CHURCHYARD.—As your remarks upon intramural interment, and the state of our graveyards, have been so pertinent and seasonable as to cause universal attention, allow me to relate what occurred in Bedford-street, Covent Garden, on the 19th and 20th of this month. *Eight* double loads of the consecrated ground, full of *human remains* (as might be expected) were wheeled from Covent Garden Churchyard, where a brick grave had been dug, to the bottom of Church-place, and there remained till removed by carts, to the horror of the inhabitants and persons passing in that street,—the various bones of the human body being played with by boys, and jaw-bones, with the teeth perfect, taken up by various individuals. On inquiry, you will find the facts worse than my representation. The waterman for the coach stand, who was on the spot the whole time, was horrified at the desecration he was obliged to witness.—J. G. G., Tavistock-row.

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